

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /103 W

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R 222303Z OCT 76

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0084

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4662

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, FJ, UN, US, WS

SUBJECT: FIJI'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE VUNIBOBO INVITES US  
SUPPORT FOR WESTERN SAMOA'S UN MEMBERSHIP CANDIDACY

REF: A) USUN 4274 B) USUN 4410 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: FIJI'S AMBASSADOR VUNIBOBO CALLED ON AMB BENNETT OCTOBER 21 TO INVITE US SUPPORT FOR WESTERN SAMOA'S UN MEMBERSHIP CANDIDACY. VUNIBOBO THOUGHT WESTERN SAMOA'S APPLICATION WOULD REACH UN SECURITY COUNCIL IN LATE NOVEMBER. IN THIS CONNECTION, UN SECRETARIAT BELIEVES DECEMBER 1 LIKELY DATE OF RECEIPT. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER MOST CORDIAL EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS, FIJI'S AMB VUNIBOBO (REF A ASKED BENNETT FOR US SUPPORT OF WESTERN SAMOA'S CANDIDACY FOR UN MEMBERSHIP (REF B) AND INVITED OUR COSPONSORSHIP.

3. BENNETT STRESSED THAT COUNTRIES FROM SOUTH PACIFIC REGION HAVE MADE NOTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORK OF UN. BENNETT SAID HE WOULD REPORT VUNIBOBO'S APPROACH ON WESTERN SAMOA PROMPTLY TO WASHINGTON. BENNETT SAID HE  
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UNDERSTOOD THAT WESTERN SAMOA HAD BEEN DEFERRING ITS APPLICATION. HE ASKED WHY WESTERN SAMOA HAD NOW DECIDED

TO APPLY. VUNIBOBO SURMISED THAT PRESENCE OF A NEW AND YOUNGER PRIME MINISTER (TAISI TUPUOLA EQI) IN WESTERN SAMOA MAY HAVE BEEN DECISIVE. HE CONSIDERED NEW PRIME MINISTER TO BE MORE "OUTWARD LOOKING" THAN HIS PREDECESSOR (TUPUA TAMESE LEALOFI IV).

4. BENNETT TURNED TO OCTOBER 11 UNGA GENERAL DEBATE ADDRESS BY FIJI'S PRIME MINISTER SIR RATU KAMISESE MARA. VUNIBOBO SAID THAT GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S LETTER TO MARA ABOUT THE SPEECH HAD BEEN DEEPLY APPRECIATED. VUNIBOBO SAID THAT MARA HAD WORRIED THE NIGHT BEFORE HIS SPEECH THAT IT MIGHT STRIKE A LITTLE TOO HARD TO CERTAIN ELEMENTS IN THE UN (E.G. GROUPING CONFININF "MEMBERSHIP TO THOSE OF LIKE PHILOSOPHIES, POLITICES AND PERSUASIONS"). IT DEVELOPED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS SPEECH ATTRACTED MUCH PRAISE. SINGAPORE'S AMBASSADOR KOH, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD SAID: "YOU KNOW I ENVY YOU PEOPLE THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO SPEAK YOUR MIND." BENNETT SAID WE APPRECIATED MARA'S VIEWS AND SHARED THEM. BENNETT CONTINUED THAT AS A GOVERNMENT OF LAW WE SOMETIMES HAD DIFFICULTIES WITH DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FROM A LEGAL POINT OF VIEW. VUNIBOBO SAID THAT FIJI HAD SIMILAR PROBLEMS.

6. RECALLING HIS CALL ON VUNIBOBO OCTOBER 7, BENNETT SAID THAT VUNIBOBO'S VIEWS ON US ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON AND WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

7. REGARDING PROSENTATION OF HIS CREDENTIALS IN WASHINGTON, VUNIBOBO VOLUNTERED HIS COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING THAT PRESIDENT FORD WAS EXTREMELY BUSY NOW WITH THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. HE LOOKED FORWARD GREATLY TO PRESENTING HIS CREDENTIALS TO THE PRESIDENT AFTER THE ELECTION.  
BENNETT

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## Message Attributes

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